

**Amendments to the claims:**

Claims 1-14: (canceled)

15. (currently amended) An electric power tool, having an electric motor (8) acting to drive a tool (6) and having a sensor unit (9), which detects the contact pressure of the tool (6) against a workpiece (7) and cooperates with a signal transducer (10), wherein the sensor unit (9) has a current-measuring device (23), which detects the current of the electric motor (8), and wherein the sensor unit (9) further has a strain gauge and/or a piezoelectric sensor.

16. (currently amended) An electric power tool, having an electric motor (8) acting to drive a tool (6), having a control and/or regulating unit (20) serving to guide the operation of the electric motor (8) and having a sensor unit (9), which detects the contact pressure of the tool (6) against a workpiece (7) and cooperates with the control and/or regulating unit (20), wherein the sensor unit (9) has a strain gauge and/or a piezoelectric sensor, and wherein the sensor unit (9) further has a current-measuring device (23), which detects the current of the electric motor (8).

17. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 16, wherein the sensor unit (9) cooperates with a signal transducer (10).

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 15, wherein the current-measuring device (23) has a shunt (31), through which the motor current flows, and an electronic evaluation unit (36).

20. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 15, wherein the signal transducer (10) is an optical and/or an acoustical signal transducer (12, 13) and/or a signal transducer (14) that calls on the sense of touch.

21. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 20, wherein the optical signal transducer (12) is at least one LED (15, 16) and/or an LED array (17) and/or a display (19) and/or a bar display (18).

22. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 20, wherein the acoustical signal transducer (13) is a speaker and/or a bell.

23. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 22, wherein a device that has a sound output in the form of a speech output is associated with the speaker.

24. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 16, wherein the control and/or regulating unit (20) controls and/or regulates the torque of the tool (6), or of a tool receptacle (6'), as a function of the contact pressure of the tool (6) against the workpiece (7).

25. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 16, wherein the control and/or regulating unit (20) controls and/or regulates the rotary speed of the tool (6), or of a tool receptacle (6'), as a function of the contact pressure of the tool (6) against the workpiece (7).

26. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 16, wherein the control and/or regulating unit (20) controls and/or regulates the torque of the tool (6), or of a tool receptacle (6'), as a function of the contact pressure of the tool (6) against the workpiece (7) at a predetermined rotary speed.

27. (currently amended) A method for guiding the operation of an electric power tool that has an electric motor (8) acting to drive a tool (6), a sensor unit (9), and a signal transducer (10), comprising the following steps:

detecting the current of the electric motor (8) with a current-measuring device (23);

determining the contact pressure of the tool (6) against a workpiece (7) from the current of the electric motor (8) by means of the sensor unit (9);

sending a feedback to a user as to whether the user is exerting the contact pressure in an optimized operating range via the signal transducer (10);  
automatically adjusting a torque and/or a rotary speed of the electric motor.

28. (currently amended) A method for guiding the operation of an electric power tool that has an electric motor (8) acting to drive a tool (6), a sensor unit, (9) and a control and/or regulating unit (20), comprising the following steps:

detecting the current of the electric motor (8) with a current-measuring device (23);

determining the contact pressure of the tool (6) against a workpiece (7) ~~from the current of the electric motor (8)~~ by means of the sensor unit (9);

relating the contact pressure with optimized work parameters of the electric motor (8) stored in a memory of the control and/or regulating unit (20);

automatically adjusting the torque of the electric motor (8), of a tool (6), and/or of a tool receptacle (6'), as a function of the contact pressure, taking a predetermined rotary speed into account, wherein the predetermined rotary speed is set by a user at the onset of a work process and is kept constant.

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 15, wherein the signal transducer (10) is an acoustical signal transducer

(13).

31. (previously presented) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 15, wherein the signal transducer (10) is a signal transducer (14) that calls on the sense of touch.

32. (canceled)

33. (new) The electric power tool in accordance with claim 16, wherein the current-measuring device (23) has a shunt (31), through which the motor current flows, and an electronic evaluation unit (36).